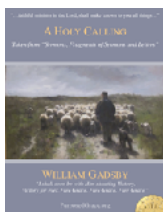


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

November 19th, 2017

“Delight thyself also in
the LORD; and HE shall
give thee the desires of
thine heart.”

(PSALM 37:4)



New on our bookshelf... William Gadsby

A Holy Calling

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us

Printed copies are available in the foyer

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

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Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Wednesday [no midweek service this week]

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Please Note

There will be no midweek service on November 22nd

This evening's podcast will be from PASTOR EMERITUS JACK SHANKS

ISAIAH 41:8, ROMANS 4:3 - WHAT IS IMPORTANT?

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

***Our featured sermon is made available each Sunday at 6:00 PM**

FREE INDEED

“CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH.”

(ROMANS 10:4)

By nature, we are in bondage to *the world*. Its charms, its pleasures, its wickedness, and deceit, carry us like a flood from the ways of God and truth. We are in bondage to *the law*. The law, when given to Adam, was in perfect accordance with his nature. It was holy, just, and good; and so was Adam. But Adam, having the management of it himself, broke its commands. But the law remained the same; God determined it should not be sullied; it must be fulfilled in every point. And here are we, the sons of Adam, bound to produce a perfect obedience to a perfect law. The child of God is made to feel all this and groan under it.

What is this freedom? Sometimes God is pleased to grant a manifestation of pardon at once, but oftener gradually. The first token of freedom is, to feel that we are in bondage, that we are sinners; for though all men are alike sinners in the sight of God, all are not blessed with freedom to know it, and to cry out for mercy in consequence thereof. We never cry for mercy, feelingly so, till we enjoy a little of this freedom. Then we pant for the water of life, and at last we are enabled to rejoice in a precious Redeemer.

The Son makes us free, and not ourselves. Suppose we were in debt and had nought to pay the debt, and a kind friend were to come and pay it for us, we should justly be free. And so it is with Christ. He paid our enormous debt and set us free, “*He is the end of the law for righteousness to every*

one that believeth.” And thus is the law magnified more than if Adam had fully obeyed its commands, inasmuch as it has the obedience of God and man. By faith we realize this great truth, and are made free. God grant us the enjoyment of this freedom, and we shall then be free indeed.

PASTOR **WILLIAM GADSBY**

‘Sermons, Fragments of Sermons, and Letters’, pages 286-287, Published in 1884

BLESSING OR A CURSE?

“WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO”

[MATTHEW 7:19-21]

How often have we heard someone talk about being blessed of the Lord? Or some false preacher says, “God has a blessing for you today!”

Most generally, when people consider their blessings, they start counting temporal things; their money, health, size of their house, a prosperous business or job, etc. But the scriptures say, *“We look not at the things which are SEEN, but at things which are NOT SEEN: for the things which are SEEN are temporal; but the things which are NOT SEEN are eternal”* (1 CORINTHIANS 4:18). The scriptures also speak of *spiritual blessings* in Christ.

Let us weigh some of our ideas about God’s blessings in light of His Word. If being prosperous is evidence of God’s blessings, then is being poor evidence of God’s disfavor? If having health is proof of God’s blessings, then does it mean that being sick is a curse from God? If the only way we can count our blessings is by looking at temporal things, then we really haven’t been blessed at all, for God has given us *ALL spiritual blessings* in Christ!

He has given us redemption from our sins, regeneration by the Spirit, peace with Himself by reconciling us to Himself by the cross; in short He has made Christ unto all believers, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

Anything you possess, hope to possess or can put your hand on or your physical eye can see is going to perish with the using, but Christ is the same today, yesterday and forever! If there is something in your life that you call a blessing and it keeps you from the worship of Christ and the hearing of the gospel, then you are sadly mistaken. Our Lord said, *“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (MATTHEW 7:19-21).

Where is your treasure? In the bank, in your job, in your children? If these things are your blessings, they are all fading away; only Christ abideth forever. Do you have your heart set on HIM?

PASTOR **DONALD BELL**

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?

“...THANKSGIVING, AND HONOUR, AND POWER, AND MIGHT, BE UNTO OUR GOD FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.” (REVELATION 7:12)

Dear reader, when you depart this world and find yourself standing before God; what do you want to say to Him? I’ve asked that question to many professing believers over the years and many answer, “I suppose I will thank Him.” And then when asked “For what will you thank Him?” Many answer, “I’ll thank Him for my spouse, I’ll thank Him for my children and family, for my Mom and Dad” or perhaps they answer “I will thank Him for my home, for my career, and for the happy life I’ve lived.” Sadly, very rarely do I hear professing Christians answer “What will I say to God when I stand before Him? I’ll fall down before Him and thank Him for redeeming me with His precious blood, I’ll thank Him for sanctifying me with His perfect righteousness, I’ll thank Him for His unspeakable gift of eternal life and for saving me freely by His grace in Christ.”

Beloved, while it is good and right to be thankful for the many temporal benefits we enjoy from the hand of our Heavenly Father, supremely above all things, indeed above everything, we should be giving thanks for Christ. Indeed in Heaven the redeemed will not be singing a song of gratitude for the things of this world, rather our new song of blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving will be toward One object, the Lord Jesus Christ; who is not merely first in our lives, rather beloved of God, *He is our Life!*

“...they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” (REVELATION 5:9-10)

PASTOR

THE WORDS OF A DISHONEST MAN

“LOVE NOT SLEEP, LEST THOU COME TO POVERTY; OPEN THINE EYES, AND THOU SHALT BE SATISFIED WITH BREAD.”

(PROVERBS 20:13)

“If what you are saying is true, then many of my family and friends are not saved. Worse yet, I could not have been saved when I thought I was. If the truth be known, the thing that really disturbs me about your gospel is, I may not be saved now. I am unwilling to consider any of those possibilities. I can not refute your position from scripture. The only way to prove that you are wrong and I am right, which I must do in order to shore up my shaky assurance, is to attack your motive and character. Therefore, you are just being too narrow, arrogant, and judgmental. Now I feel better. I can go back to sleep.”

PASTOR GREG ELMQUIST